

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 00130 120555Z

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01

INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAL-01 /119 W

-----120558Z 013397 /13

R 111045Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5466

INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0130

DEPT. PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PLOS, TC

SUBJECT : LOS: UAE POSITION ON STRAITS ISSUE

REF: (A) 76 ABU DHABI 3126, (B) 76 ABU DHABI 3357 (NOTAL)

1. DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION OF MARITIME ISSUES, TAJ AL-SIR HAMZA, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TOLD DCM JANUARY 10 THAT, AS FAR AS HE WAS AWARE, UAEG WAS STILL FIRM IN ITS POSITION IN FAVOR OF FREE PASSAGE THROUGH STRAITS. HAMZA NOTED IN PARTICULAR THAT HE HAD PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS WITH VISITING IRAN DEL (REF B) WHEN THIS ISSUE WAS DIS-
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CUSSED AND THAT UAE SIDE HAD REFUSED TO BE SWAYED. YE LIKEWISE NOTED THAT UAE DRAFT LEGISLATION ON LAW OF SEA, WHILE NOT DEALING SPECIFICALLY WITH THIS ISSUE (UAE OF COURSE BORDERS NO STRAITS), DID STRESS FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND OTHERWISE IMPLIED SUPPORT OF FREE OVER INNOCENT PASSAGE.

2. HAMZA DID NOT PARTICIPATE EITHER IN ZAYID'S VISIT TO MUSCAT (REF A) NOR IN FONMINISTERS MEETING THERE. THUS IT IS POSSIBLE THAT HE NOT FULLY UP-TO-DATE. HE IS, HOWEVER, AS NOTED REF B, SECRETARY OF INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON THIS SUBJECT AND HAS GENERALLY BEEN WELL INFORMED. EVEN ON FONMIN CONFERENCE, HAMZA WAS QUITE DEFINITE IN STATING THAT, WHILE HANDLING ISSUE WAS DIFFICULT IN VIEW OF POSITION NOT ONLY OF IRAN BUT OF HOST GOVERNMENT, UAE HAD NOT COMMITTED ITSELF TO ANY CHANGE IN POSITION. MOREOVER, IN HIS VIEW UAE WAS MORE COMMITTED TO CONCEPT OF FREE PASSAGE THAN SAY SAUDI ARABIA WHOSE STANCE AT THIS TIME HE CHARACTERIZED AS SOMEWHAT VAGUE. THIS STILL LEAVES QUESTION OF WHAT IF ANY COMMITMENT ZAYID MAY HAVE MADE TO QABOOS (REF A). IN END THIS COULD CLEARLY BE CONTROLLING. ON OTHER HAND, GIVEN LIMITED FOCUS OF ZAYID ON SUCH ISSUES, FIRMNESS OF WORKING LEVEL IN FAVOR OF FREE PASSAGE IS ENCOURAGING SIGN OVER LONG RUN.

3. RE DRAFT LOS LAW MENTIONED PARA 1, EMBASSY HAS BEEN SEEKING COPY FOR SOME MONTHS. HAMZA, WHO COMPLETED FIRST DRAFT SOME THREE YEARS AGO AND HAS SEEN IT LANGUISH EVER SINCE, IS RELUCTANT (A) TO REVEAL DETAILS BEFORE DEFINITIVE ACTION AND (B) TO PREDICT WHEN SUCH ACTION MIGHT OCCUR. AT MOMENT HE STATES DRAFT IS WITH FONMINISTER, HAVING BEEN APPROVED BY HIS COMMITTEE. BUT EVEN IF MINISTER AGREES THERE WILL STILL BE NEED FOR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ENDORSE-
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MENT--ALL OF WHICH LIKELY TO RKE TIME. WE HAVE MADE POINT THAT WE TRUST HIS DRAFT WOULD NOT LOCK UAE INTO POSITIONS LIKELY TO BE IN CONFLICT WITH INTERNATIONAL LOS TREATY, HE FOR HIS PART HAS ASSURED US THAT TERMS OF UAE DRAFT SHOULD POSE NO PROBLEMS TO BROADER TREATY, WE WILL KEEP AFTER THIS ISSUE IN OUR CONTINUING CONTACTS WITH HAMZA.
DICKMAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, INNOCENT PASSAGE, NEGOTIATIONS, STRAITS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770165/aaaaceko.tel
Line Count: 105
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Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 2ee5b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Status: NATIVE
Subject: LOS: UAE POSITION ON STRAITS ISSUE
TAGS: PLOS, TC, (HAMZA, TAJ AL-SIR)
To: STATE
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2ee5b6db-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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